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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1997/501
30 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 28 JUNE 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey to you the attached letter, dated 27 June 1997, which I have received from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations (see annex). Attached to the letter is the seventh biweekly report on the multinational protection force for Albania, as requested by the Security Council in resolutions 1101 (1997) of 28 March 1997 and 1114 (1997) of 19 June 1997.

I should appreciate your bringing the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-17919 (E) 300697

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Annex

Letter dated 27 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit the seventh report on the multinational protection force for Albania (see appendix), which refers to events up to 25 June. It can be considered the last report submitted pursuant to the requirements set out in Security Council resolution 1101 (1997) of 28 March 1997, and the first report submitted to the Security Council pursuant to the requirements set out in paragraph 9 of resolution 1114 (1997) of 19 June 1997. The sixth such report was conveyed to you on 13 June 1997 (see S/1997/460).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and the seventh report circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI
Ambassador

Appendix

Seventh report to the Security Council on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 28 March 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1101 (1997), in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed the offer made by certain Member States to establish a temporary and limited multinational protection force to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance.

2. In paragraph 9 of the resolution, the Security Council requested the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide periodic reports, at least every two weeks, to the Council through the Secretary-General. The first five reports were provided on 9 and 25 April, 9 and 23 May and 6 June 1997 (see S/1997/440). A sixth report was provided on 13 June 1997 (see S/1997/460), referring to the modalities of the presence of the force after 28 June 1997 and in the light of the assessment of the situation by the Security Council three months after its adoption of resolution 1101 (1997), as foreseen by it in paragraph 6 of the resolution.

3. In that report, the Steering Committee, consisting of the political directors of the troop-contributing countries and the Commander of the operation, having considered the requests by the Albanian authorities that the force remain in Albania during the electoral process to help ensure a safe and secure environment for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) monitoring teams, in the framework of the Security Council's mandate, after consultation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of OSCE and having considered the operational modalities, recommended that the mandate given to the force by the Security Council in resolution 1101 (1997) be extended for the period necessary for the implementation of the electoral process in Albania, starting on 29 June, and in any event not longer than 45 days after the termination of the previous mandate.

4. On 16 June 1997, the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council requesting the extension of the mandate of the multinational protection force in Albania.

5. On 19 June 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1114 (1997), in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed the readiness of the countries contributing to the multinational protection force to maintain their military contingents in Albania for a limited time. In paragraph 3 of the resolution the Security Council welcomed the intention of the countries contributing to the multinational protection force to continue to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance. It also took note of all the elements contained in the sixth report on the operation of the multinational protection

force in Albania, concerning, inter alia, the electoral monitoring mission of the OSCE-ODIHR. It decided that the operation would be limited to a period of 45 days from 28 June 1997.

6. In paragraph 9 of the same resolution the Security Council requested the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide periodic reports to the Council through the Secretary-General, at least every two weeks, the first such report to be made no later than 14 days after the adoption of the resolution.

7. The seventh report to the Security Council on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania refers to events up to 25 June. It can be considered the last report submitted to the Council pursuant to the requirements set out in resolution 1101 (1997) and the first report submitted to the Council pursuant to the requirements set out in paragraph 9 of resolution 1114 (1997).

II. MULTINATIONAL PROTECTION FORCE

A. Political guidance

8. The Steering Committee, consisting of the political directors of the 11 troop-contributing countries and the Commander of the operation, continues to follow the overall situation on the ground and the full compliance of the activities of the force with the Security Council mandate. It had meetings on 4, 9, 14, 23 and 30 April, 6, 13, 14 and 22 May and 4, 10, 20 and 25 June 1997. Belgium, having decided to contribute to the force, has participated in the meetings of the Committee as a full member since 10 June 1997.

9. Representatives of the following international organizations have attended the meetings of the Steering Committee as observers, as appropriate: United Nations, OSCE, European Union, Western European Union and International Committee of the Red Cross.

B. Cooperation with Albanian authorities

10. The Albanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pavli Zeri, attended the Steering Committee meeting on 25 June 1997 and expressed his appreciation for the excellent cooperation between the Command of the force and the Albanian authorities. He also stressed that the presence of the force being impartial and neutral has contributed to the normalization of the situation of public order, and welcomed the continuation of the force's presence during the electoral process. The Minister for Foreign Affairs reiterated the commitment of the Albanian political parties to cooperate with the multinational protection force and with the OSCE-ODIHR missions during the electoral process and to respect the results of the electoral operations as assessed by OSCE.

C. Cooperation with international organizations

11. The force is helping to create a secure environment for several missions of international organizations active in Albania. In addition to the action taken to facilitate a safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance, the force helps to ensure a secure environment during the electoral process in particular with regard to the OSCE-ODIHR missions, within the framework of the Security Council mandate.

12. On 18 June 1997 the OSCE ministerial troika conducted a thorough assessment of the preparation for the elections in Albania on the basis of reports of Dr. Franz Vranitzky, Personal Representative of the Chairman in Office, and Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann, Director-General of ODIHR. The OSCE troika welcomed the cooperative attitude of the multinational protection force in helping to provide security conditions for all international observers under the OSCE plan and strongly supported the holding of parliamentary elections in Albania on 29 June.

D. Force deployment

13. The force has extended its deployment and acquired further visibility, intensifying reconnaissance and escorting humanitarian convoys. To date, protection has been guaranteed to 310 humanitarian missions. In particular, 192 reconnaissance missions were carried out to assist 116 OSCE missions, 65 non-governmental organizations and 11 on-call missions; 79 convoys to transport humanitarian aid and 29 convoys for technical support operations were organized. Technical support was provided to humanitarian operations such as the anti-polio campaign, targeting 350,000 children, water chlorinization and distribution of teaching equipment. These missions took place in 57 towns or villages in Albania.

14. Transportation of about 4,000 tons of humanitarian aid took place, including 3,221 tons of food, 286 tons of foodstuff for families, 50 tons of foodstuff parcels, 170 tons of seeds, 273 tons of health equipment and 60 tons of various items.

15. For the specific purpose of protecting the OSCE monitoring missions during the electoral process, a limited increase in the strength of the force of about 1,000 units has been considered necessary. In this respect, Italy is deploying 690 additional units, while Greece and Turkey have pledged a company each.

16. In the present phase, the Commander's operational concept provides for the following:

(a) To contribute to securing OSCE monitoring teams in those areas where the force is already deployed, providing patrols on the roads where specific OSCE activities are in progress;

(b) To expand the deployment to support OSCE monitoring teams in the areas of Korce, Shkoder, Peskopi, Berat, Kukes, Pogradec and Sarande with stable or

mobile force presence according to existing operational capabilities and with regard to the general situation;

(c) To provide security escorts, on a case-by-case basis, within existing capability, to specific OSCE teams elsewhere;

(d) To develop a plan to rescue OSCE teams in case of emergency.

17. Protection will therefore be granted to the OSCE monitoring teams, according to the situation, either indirectly, within the enlarged security framework, in most of the country, or directly, providing escorts on a case-by-case basis in the residual part of the country. The force will grant medical assistance within its military compounds, offer accommodation according to existing capabilities and provide communication personnel in order to facilitate links between different OSCE missions and central headquarters. An Italian naval unit has been stationed in Durres since 19 June 1997 for logistic support to the OSCE missions. On a bilateral basis, Italy has responded to OSCE transport needs, strengthening the OSCE mission with 50 vehicles and 70 drivers. Greece has provided 30 vehicles and respective drivers and Austria six vehicles and respective drivers.

III. CONCLUSIONS

18. The situation in Albania remains tense. Several clashes between rival gangs continue to result in casualties, especially in the south of the country. The force has been involved in some incidents. In one case, on 18 June, a Greek soldier, responding to fire aimed at him, was responsible for an Albanian casualty in Elbasan. On the same day, soldiers of the Romanian contingent had to intervene against a gang in Gjirokaster to free 11 OSCE monitors who had been taken hostage. On 20 June, the force had to intervene in Fier to free a humanitarian convoy which had been attacked by an armed gang.

19. The force is committed to help create a secure environment and the best possible conditions for the holding of regular and fair elections. The force is adapting in a flexible way to the requirements set out in Security Council resolution 1114 (1997). A special office has been set up at the force headquarters in Tirana to follow, in cooperation with OSCE and the Albanian authorities, the developments of the electoral operations. The Steering Committee will be in permanent session in Rome from the opening of the polling stations to the conclusion of the voting operations, in direct contact with the above-mentioned office.

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S/1997/502
30 June 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 30 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of the Congo proposes to make available to the United Nations the sum of $1 million (US$ 1,000,000), as a special contribution to the financial effort required for the rapid deployment of a peacekeeping force in Brazzaville.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Daniel ABIBI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-17936 (E) 300697 300697

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Security Council

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S/1997/503
1 July 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 1 JULY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter to you from Mr. Omar Mustafa Montasser, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, refuting the United States Administration's allegations that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is a threat to United States security and supports terrorism.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzid Omar DORDAH
Permanent Representative

97-18106 (E) 010797 010797

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Annex

Letter dated 30 June 1997 from the Secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my letter to the Security Council of March 1997, in which I indicated that the United States had intensified its media campaign against my country and was threatening to attack Libya.

President Clinton recently ordered the continuation of the economic sanctions imposed on my country, asserting that the Jamahiriya is a threat to United States security and supports terrorism. In that connection, I wish to inform you of the following:

1. The United States Administration is determined to maintain in effect Executive Orders Nos. 12543 and 12544, dated 7 and 8 January 1986, respectively, which provide for the freezing of Libyan assets and the imposition of an economic embargo on Libya, measures that were denounced by the majority of civilized countries at the fifty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted resolution 51/22 of 27 November 1996, prohibiting the use of economic sanctions as a means of political compulsion.

2. It is regrettable that a large and very powerful country should claim that a small country is a threat to its security. The Jamahiriya, far from being a threat to anybody's security, is itself the victim of constant attacks by the United States Administration.

3. The United States Administration's persistent accusations that my country practises terrorism are completely unjustified. The Jamahiriya has already condemned terrorism in all its forms, including State terrorism, and called on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send an impartial international delegation to Libya to verify the United States Administration's allegations and ascertain that there are no camps for training terrorists on Libyan territory.

4. The United States Administration's decision to maintain Executive Orders Nos. 12543 and 12544, dated 7 and 8 January 1986, respectively, which provide for the imposition of an economic embargo on Libya and the freezing of Libyan assets abroad, violates the principles of respect for national sovereignty and of peaceful coexistence among States recognized by the international community, as demonstrated in resolution 51/22 of 27 November 1996, which the General Assembly adopted at its fifty-first session and in which it prohibits the use of economic sanctions as a means of political compulsion.

In addition to informing you of the state of political relations between my country and the United States Administration, I wish to reaffirm that the Libyan Jamahiriya is willing to cooperate with the Security Council with a view to promoting peace and international security, as well as peaceful coexistence among all States.

(Signed) Omar Mustafa MONTASSER
Secretary of the General People's Committee
for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation

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S/1997/504
1 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 27 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following instances of violations by Iraq of the terms of the ceasefire between the two countries.

1. On 29 December 1997, at 0800 hours, Iranian forces intercepted a number of armed Iraqi smugglers who had infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 5700048000 on the map of the area west of Jofeir-2. As a result of the clash, an Iranian soldier was martyred and four smugglers were killed or injured. The rest of them fled back into Iraqi territory.

2. On 2 January 1997, at 1100 hours, an Iraqi loader was observed repairing embankments on the river bank at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5560039500 on the map of Sumar, south of Mian-Tang-Dara, east of border pillar 40/5, opposite border pillar 41.

3. On 2 January 1997, at 1500 hours, three Iraqi military trucks were observed at the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 5500073000 on the map of the area south of Hoor Al-Hovaiza, south of border pillar 14B, in no man's land.

4. On 2 January 1997, at 1600 hours, five armed Iraqis infiltrated one kilometre into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran near Nasrian sentry post in the Dehloran area. After tying up local shepherds, the Iraqis stole 150 sheep and took them into Iraqi territory.

5. On 5 January 1997, at 1000 hours, an Iraqi mechanical shovel was observed at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 6400022000 on the map of Kani-Shiekh, south of Lajma, Iraq and south-east of border pillar 39/2.

6. On 5 January 1997, at 1000 hours, eight anti-revolutionary elements crossed the border and entered the village of Najna-Bala, in Bana district. They left the area after having threatened and extorted the villagers.

7. On 5 January 1997, an Iranian fishing dhow, with 10 crew members and sailors aboard, was seized in Khor-Abdollah by Iraqi sea patrols and taken into Iraqi territory.

8. On 7 January 1997, at 1000 hours, 10 Iraqis were observed repairing an electric pillar at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 3770062000 on the map of Naft-Sahr-Jonoobi, north of border pillar 46, opposite the Iranian seh-Tapan sentry post.

9. On 8 January 1997, at 0100 hours, the Iranian boundary police intercepted two Iraqis at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 710024000 on the map of Ghala, around Tangeh-Hammam, east of Sar-Pol-Zohab, north-east and north of border pillars 60, 60/1, and 60/2. As a result of the clash, one of the intruders was arrested and taken to Polmahi hospital. The others fled back into Iraqi territory.

10. On 9 January 1997, 37 Iraqi motor boats and 15 dhows and tugboats, carrying 100 individuals, were observed patrolling in the Arvand Rud.

11. On 9 January 1997, five Iraqi soldiers aboard two boats were observed patrolling in the Arvand Rud at the geographic coordinates of 39R TP 5000040000 on the map of Khosro Abad, in no man's land, opposite Khosro Abad in the Islamic Republic of Iran and at the geographic coordinates of 39R TP 2800067000 on the map of Khorramshahr.

12. On 10 January 1997, at 0900 hours, a number of Iraqi troops infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and started reconnaissance activities at the geographic coordinates of 39R TP 1700095000 on the map of Nim-Eistgah-Navad, in no man's land, north and south of border pillars 7/8 and 7/9. They fled back into Iraqi territory after the response of the Iranian border police.

13. On 10 January 1997, at 1000 hours, the Iranian boundary police intercepted three Iraqi armed smugglers who had infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the geographic coordinates of 38R QA 7100012000 on the map of Saeidia. As a result of the clash, one of the smugglers was killed and two others were injured and fled back into Iraqi territory.

14. On 10 January 1997, four Iraqi vehicles were observed moving at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4570097800 on the map of Khosravi, south of border pillar 51 and the Iraqi Chirzad sentry post, in no man's land.

15. On 11 January 1997, at 1000 hours, an Iraqi boat, carrying three individuals, crossed the thalweg line at the geographic coordinates of 39R TP 5900018000 on the map of Alishir river. They left the area after being warned by the Iranian border police.

16. On 12 January 1997, an Iraqi vehicle and a mechanical shovel were observed repairing a canal at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5560039500 on the map of Sumar, south of Miantang Dareh, opposite border pillars 40/5 and 41. They headed towards Mandali after completing their work.

17. On 12 January 1997, an Iraqi IFA vehicle left the area around the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 6400024000 on the map of Kani Sheikh, south of Lajma, Iraq and south-west of border pillar 39/2. It returned to its point of departure after stopping for two hours around the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 6800024000 on the map of Kani Sheikh, in no man's land, south of border pillar 39/1 and the Iranian Ghalalem sentry post.

18. On 12 January 1997, four Iraqi soldiers installed an air defence cannon at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 3900067200 on the map of Naft Shahr, around tank No. 35.

19. On 13 January 1997, at 1520 hours, five Iraqi soldiers were seen patrolling and carrying out reconnaissance activities on the Agh Dagh Heights, west of the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post, at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4100005100 on the map of Khosravi.

20. On 14 January 1997, at 0800 hours, a number of Iraqi troops were observed training at the geographic coordinates of 38S 3870007800 on the map of Khosravi, south of border pillar 53/4.

21. On 14 January 1997, at 1200 hours, an Iraqi vehicle, carrying five individuals, was observed entering the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 42700005000 on the map of Khosravi, in no man's land, opposite Khosravi in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

22. On 14 January 1997, at 1245 hours, six Iraqi troops were observed gathering at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 3890007800 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillar 53/4.

23. On 14 January 1997, one Iraqi truck and two loaders were observed excavating at the geographic coordinates of 39R TQ 1600021000 on the map of Hosseinia, west of border pillar 7/26, in no man's land.

24. On 15 January 1997, seven Iraqi vehicles, each carrying three to five individuals, were observed moving on roads in the areas of Kani Sheikh, Mandaria, Ghasr-e-Shirin, Zeinol Khosh and Khosravi.

25. On 16 January 1997, at 0200 hours, a number of Iraqi boats were observed patrolling in the Arvand Rud, opposite the Khorramshahr customs office and Mino Island in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

26. On 16 January 1997, at 0230 hours, an Iraqi helicopter was seen over Om-Al Rassas Island in Iraqi territory in the vicinity of Khorramshahr.

27. On 16 January 1997, at 0850 hours, an Iraqi IFA vehicle, carrying five individuals, was observed entering the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post, at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4200005000 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillar 53/2, in no man's land.

28. On 17 January 1997, at 0800 hours, an Iraqi mechanical shovel was observed operating at the geographic coordinates of 39R TP 1350078600 on the map of Nim-Estgah-Navad, in no man's land and between border pillars 4/4, 5 and 5/1.

29. On 17 January 1997, at 0935 hours, two Iraqi soldiers were observed digging an embankment at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4290067200 on the map of Naft-Shahr, north of the Genneh Kabood border river, in no man's land.

30. On 18 January 1997, from 0900 to 1020 hours, 20 Iraqi troops, stationed at Iraqi Al-Meghdad sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4150010200 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillars 55, 55/1 and 55/2, in no man's land, were observed being trained.

31. On 18 January 1997, at 1200 hours, five Iraqi troops aboard a vehicle entered the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post and began mapping the Iraqi Mandaria customs office around the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4240005400 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillar 53/2, in no man's land.

32. On 18 January 1997, at 1200 hours, an Iraqi grader was observed repairing and levelling the area in the vicinity of the Mandaria customs office around the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4420004000 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillar 53/2, in no man's land.

33. On 19 January 1997, at 0920 hours, 30 fully equipped Iraqi troops aboard two vehicles were deployed around the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 41000060000 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillar 53/2, in no man's land.

34. On 19 January 1997, at 1320 hours, 10 Iraqi soldiers installed a flag at height No. 256 at the geographic coordinates of ND 4150009900, south of border pillars 55, 55/1 and 55/2, in no man's land around the Iraqi Al-Meghdad sentry post.

35. On 21 January 1997, at 1315 hours, Iraqi troops stationed at height No. 256 at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4410096000 on the map of Khosravi, south of border pillar 51 and the Iraqi Chirzad sentry post, installed an observation tower.

36. On 24 January 1997, at 1030 hours, an Iraqi crane was observed around the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5510035400 on the map of Sumar, west of border pillar 40/3.

37. On 24 January 1997, at 1120 hours, seven Iraqi Kurds, equipped with a mine detection device, were observed demining the area at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 5350025600 on the map of Ghasr-e-Shirin, west of Piroozkhan, in no man's land.

38. On 25 January 1997, at 0840 hours, five Iraqi troops from the Ain Al-Abd sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S PB 2200046000 on the map of Kooh-Toonel, south of border pillar 27/4, were observed inspecting the area.

39. On 26 January 1997, at 0900 hours, three armed Iraqi smugglers, aboard a boat, infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 6000072000 on the map of the area south of Hoor Al-Hovaiza. As a result of a clash with the Iranian border police, one of the intruders was killed.

40. On 26 January 1997, at 1320 hours, six Iraqi officers visited the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4200005000 on the map of Khosravi, north of border pillar 53/2, in no man's land.

41. On 27 January 1997, at 1410 hours, five Iraqi trucks and one loader were observed excavating around the geographic coordinates of 38R QC 5650067000 on the map of the area south of Hoor Al-Hovaiza, south of border pillars 14B and 14/A5.

42. On 28 January 1997, an Iraqi vehicle carrying seven individuals was observed moving from Khaneghein towards the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4000014000 on the map of Khosravi, north of border pillar 57 and south of the Iraqi Al-Hossein sentry post, in no man's land.

43. On 29 January 1997, at 1000 hours, two Iraqi officers visited the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4200005000 on the map of Khosravi, north of border pillar 53/2, in no man's land.

44. On 29 January 1997, at 1030 hours, a number of Iraqi troops were seen observing the area around the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5700038000 on the map of Sumar, west of border pillar 40/5, in no man's land.

It would be highly appreciated if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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S/1997/504/Corr.1
9 July 1997

ARABIC, ENGLISH AND FRENCH ONLY

LETTER DATED 27 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Corrigendum

Page 1, paragraph 1, line 1

For 29 December 1997 read 29 December 1996

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S/1997/505
1 July 1997

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REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE CREDENTIALS OF THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES OF SWEDEN ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received credentials signed on 27 June 1997 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden stating that Mr. Anders Rönquist and Mr. Magnus Lennartsson have been appointed alternate representatives of Sweden on the Security Council.

2. Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General also wishes to report that he has received credentials signed on 27 June 1997 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden stating that Mr. Per Sjögren, Ms. Ann Bernes and Ms. Karin Billing have been appointed alternate representatives of Sweden on the Security Council for the period 1 to 31 July 1997.

3. In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

97-18167 (E) 010797

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S/1997/506
1 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION OF OBSERVERS IN PREVLAKA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1093 (1997) of 14 January 1997, in which the Council requested me to submit by 5 July 1997 a report on the situation in the Prevlaka peninsula as well as on progress made by the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia towards a settlement which would peacefully resolve their differences.

2. The United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) consists of 28 United Nations military observers (see annex) headed by a Chief Military Observer, Colonel Harold Mwakio Tangai (Kenya). The current mandate of the mission expires on 15 July 1997.

3. In accordance with resolution 1093 (1997), UNMOP continues to monitor the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula and of the neighbouring areas in Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by carrying out vehicle and foot patrols on both sides of the border, except when prevented from doing so by restrictions of movement imposed by one party or the other. As part of its work, the mission holds regular meetings with local authorities in order to strengthen liaison, reduce tension, improve safety and security and promote confidence between the parties. In that context, the Chief Military Observer maintained contacts with the authorities in Zagreb, Belgrade and Podgorica in order to address issues arising from resolution 1093 (1997). Cooperation between UNMOP and the multinational stabilization force is maintained through regular meetings.

II. SITUATION IN THE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION OF OBSERVERS IN PREVLAKA

4. The situation in the UNMOP area of responsibility has remained stable, notwithstanding the concerns resulting from the developments which I described in my report of 14 April 1997 (see S/1997/311, para 3). Since the submission of

that report, further concern arose when, on 12 May 1997, 56 boxes of mortar ammunition were seen inside the demilitarized zone at a Croatian position where compatible mortars had been observed in February 1997.

5. In May 1997, the Yugoslav authorities confirmed for the first time that three positions that UNMOP had observed in the northern portion of the demilitarized zone were manned by troops of the Yugoslav Army. In the same month, Croatian authorities and media alleged that those Yugoslav positions were located on the Croatian side of the border. Owing to the long-standing restriction imposed by the Yugoslav authorities on the movements of United Nations military observers in that area, UNMOP has been unable to ascertain the strength and armament of the Yugoslav Army troops at these positions.

6. The waters of the United Nations-controlled zone continue to be violated frequently by Croatian and Yugoslav fishing boats, as well as, occasionally, by Croatian police boats and Yugoslav navy ships. The Croatian authorities continue to grant civilians access to the United Nations-controlled zone, close to the Prevlaka compound. These violations increase the possibility that incidents might occur between the parties.

III. PROGRESS TOWARDS ADOPTION OF THE PRACTICAL OPTIONS

7. In my report of 14 April 1997, I stated that the parties had made no progress towards adopting the practical options that are part of the procedures proposed by UNMOP in May 1996 to reduce tension and improve safety and security in the area (see S/1997/311, para. 4). Subsequently, on 25 April 1997, the Security Council, in a presidential statement (S/PRST/1997/23), reiterated its call upon both parties to adopt the practical options with a view to their early implementation, to remove landmines from areas patrolled by the United Nations military observers and to stop their interference with the freedom of movement of the observers and with the implementation of their mandate. During discussions with the parties in the region on 8 May 1997, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Bernard Miyet, conveyed to them the urgency of the need to address these concerns by adopting the practical options.

8. Notwithstanding these encouragements, the parties have failed to make any progress in adopting the practical options. The long-standing violations of the demilitarization regime described in my report of 31 December 1996 (see S/1996/1075, paras. 6 and 7) persist. In particular, the minefields in the demilitarized zone remain in place, including those laid beside routes patrolled by the United Nations military observers. The five permanent Croatian positions and the two permanent Yugoslav positions that violate the United Nations-controlled zone are also still in place.

9. As regards the freedom of movement of United Nations military observers throughout the UNMOP area of responsibility, the situation worsened in early June 1997 when access was denied by Croatia to positions in the north-western part of the demilitarized zone where joint patrols of United Nations military observers and Croatian officials had been permitted in the past. The authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on the other hand, lifted in

May 1997 one of the long-standing minor restrictions on the movement of United Nations military observers within the demilitarized zone.

10. Members of the Security Council will recall that, in my report of 14 April 1997, I referred to the concern expressed by authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in particular by President Momir Bulatović of Montenegro, that UNMOP had attempted to reduce the dimensions of the so-called "Blue Zone" (see S/1997/311, para. 7). In response, the Chief Military Observer prepared a comprehensive reply, which was delivered to Podgorica in May 1997, together with documentation to support the position of the United Nations that no revision of the dimensions of the United Nations designated zones had been implied in the proposed procedures for improvement of safety and security in the area.

IV. PROGRESS TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT

11. Since my previous report, the parties have continued to indicate in their contacts with United Nations officials that their bilateral negotiations pursuant to the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia, signed at Belgrade on 23 August 1996 (see S/1996/706, annex) have not addressed the Prevlaka dispute directly and that there has been no progress towards a settlement. Public statements by senior government officials in Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have confirmed those indications.

12. The unresolved dispute over Prevlaka has obstructed progress towards opening the international border crossing at Debeli Brijeg, which lies within the demilitarized zone. At meetings in April and June 1997, Croatian and Yugoslav representatives were unable to reach agreement on the status of the crossing.

V. OBSERVATIONS

13. The letters addressed by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (S/1997/394, annex) and Croatia (S/1997/412) to the President of the Security Council on 21 and 29 May 1997 respectively, show that the parties still retain the differing interpretations of the Prevlaka dispute, which were outlined in my report of 31 December 1996 (see S/1996/1075, para. 10). In sum, Croatia regards the dispute as a security issue to be settled by an arrangement that would provide security for each State within existing borders. In the view of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the dispute centres upon territorial possession of the Prevlaka peninsula. Both parties, in their letters, confirm their positive assessment of the role of UNMOP in lessening tension and maintaining stability in the region.

14. Despite the divergent interpretations of the dispute by the parties and despite their continuing violations of some aspects of the demilitarization regime in the UNMOP area of responsibility, I remain convinced that the Governments of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia can fulfil their commitment under the Agreement on Normalization of Relations to resolve peacefully the issue of Prevlaka.

15. In the circumstances, I believe that the presence of UNMOP continues to be essential to maintain conditions that are conducive to a negotiated settlement of the dispute. I therefore recommend a further six-month extension of the mandate of UNMOP until 15 January 1998.

Annex

Composition and strength of the military element of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka as at 30 June 1997

Nationality	Military observers
Argentina	1
Bangladesh	1
Belgium	1
Brazil	1
Canada	1
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	1
Egypt	1
Finland	1
Ghana	2
Indonesia	2
Ireland	1
Jordan	1
Kenya	2
Nepal	1
New Zealand	1
Nigeria	1
Norway	1
Pakistan	1
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Russian Federation	1
Sweden	1
Switzerland	1
Ukraine	1
Total	28

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NATIONS

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1 July 1997

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Items 20 (b), 38, 40, 81, 99
and 100 of the preliminary list*
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF
HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF
ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE:
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL
COUNTRIES OR REGIONS
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF
THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE
AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND
THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 26 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw to your attention the Thessaloniki Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in the Balkans, adopted at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Countries of South-eastern Europe, held at Thessaloniki, Greece, on 9 and 10 June 1997 (see annex I), as well as the Chairman's summary (see annex II).

* A/52/50.

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I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 20 (b), 38, 40, 81, 99 and 100 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Christos G. ZACHARAKIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Greece
to the United Nations

ANNEX I

Thessaloniki Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in the Balkans, adopted at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Countries of South-eastern Europe, held at Thessaloniki, Greece, on 9 and 10 June 1997

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of countries of South-eastern Europe - Mr. Blagoj Handziski, Mrs. Nadezhda Mihaylova, Mr. Milan Milutinović, Mr. Theodoros Pangalos, Mr. Adrian Severin, Deputy Minister Mr. Albert Rakipi and Deputy Under-Secretary Mr. Ali Tuygan - met at Thessaloniki on 9 and 10 June 1997.

Representatives of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (Ukraine), the Central European Initiative (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Contact Group (France, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America), the Council of Europe, the Administrative Council of the Social Development Fund of the Council of Europe, the Presidency of the European Union (Netherlands), the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, the High Representative, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (Denmark), the South-east European Cooperative Initiative, the Economic Commission for Europe, the World Bank and representatives of Armenia, Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Ukraine also attended as observers.

The Conference on Stability, Security and Cooperation in South-eastern Europe, originating from countries of the region and reaffirmed by the Sofia Declaration of 7 July 1996, reflects the determination of those countries to strengthen their ties and cooperation, transforming the region into an area of peace, stability and economic prosperity.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs declare their determination to actively promote good-neighbourly relations, stability, security and cooperation in the region. They underline their commitment to work together to ensure the rapid economic development of the area, with particular emphasis on the liberalization of trade and infrastructure projects, which will secure the prosperity of the peoples in the region.

They affirm their conviction that the intensification of democratic institutions, respect for human rights and the development of civic society, accompanied by a free-market economy, will lead to the consolidation of stability in the area.

They believe that the promotion of human contacts is an essential element for strengthening the ties among peoples in the region.

The European orientation of the States of the region is an integral part of their political, economic and social development. Their intention is to

contribute actively to European integration, motivated by the same principles that helped to establish and develop what is today the European Union.

Developments which have taken place in the area since the Sofia conference underline the importance of further implementation of the above principles. Overcoming economic problems in South-east European countries in transition is an important prerequisite for the maintenance of stability and an essential factor for the development of the region. In this context, the Ministers recall the message to the European Union by the South-east European countries, presented by Greece on behalf of the participating States, at the General Affairs Council of the European Union on 24 February 1997 and reaffirm its contents.

I. ENHANCING POLITICAL COOPERATION

A. Stability and good-neighbourly relations

The Ministers reaffirm their belief that relations among the countries of the region should be based on the universally recognized principles of good-neighbourly relations set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

They express their determination to respect and put into practice all 10 principles referred to in the Helsinki Final Act: sovereign equality; respect for rights inherent in sovereignty; refraining from the threat or use of force; inviolability of frontiers; territorial integrity of States; peaceful settlement of disputes; non-intervention in internal affairs; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief; equal rights and self-determination of peoples; cooperation among States; and fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law.

They decide that they should, whenever necessary, exchange views and consult on matters designed to enhance stability, security and good-neighbourly relations, including the implementation of the above principles.

The Ministers take note of the proposal to hold an international forum of leading personalities from the participating States with a view to promoting good-neighbourly relations and invite the country which has initiated the idea to further elaborate its content, format and modalities.

The Ministers support the efforts of the international community in consolidating peace and stability in the region.

B. Confidence- and security-building measures

The Ministers share the view that confidence- and security-building measures are of particular importance for enhancing peace and stability in South-eastern Europe. They stress the significance of agreements on confidence- and security-building measures signed so far, complementary to the Vienna Document of 1994.

The Ministers, taking into consideration the importance of strengthening peace and stability in the area, recommend a regular survey and exchange of views by exerts on the implementation of agreements on confidence- and security-building measures concluded so far and the exploration of the potential for developing confidence- and security-building measures with a scope of application in the area. They take note that the first meeting is to be held as soon as possible, at an appropriate level, at Skopje.

The Ministers support the initiation of necessary consultations on the agenda and the timing of the meeting of Ministers of Defence to be held at Sofia.

C. Democratization process

Further intensification of democratic institutions and the development of civic society are indispensable elements of peace, stability and reconciliation in the region.

The Ministers stress in this context the role which independent non-governmental organizations may play, particularly by establishing mutual communication, cooperation and coordination at the regional level.

The Ministers take note with interest of the creation, upon a Greek initiative, of a non-governmental organization, the Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in South-eastern Europe, based at Thessaloniki, which will provide assistance to that end. In this context, a conference was held at Thessaloniki in March 1996 on the subject "Democracy and civil society in the Balkans". They also take note that a second conference is scheduled to take place at Thessaloniki, from 26 to 29 June 1997, on the subject "Culture and reconciliation in South-eastern Europe".

They encourage the establishment of similar institutions in countries where they do not yet exist and recommend working out modalities of cooperation among them, leading eventually to the creation of a region-wide centre for encouraging democracy.

Recalling that during the Sofia meeting the establishment of a consultative assembly of their Parliaments was proposed, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs agree to recommend to their national Parliaments that they consider that proposal, with a view to exchanging ideas among parliamentarians on the process of multilateral cooperation in South-eastern Europe.

D. European orientation

The European orientation of the States of the region is an integral part of their political, economic and social development.

The countries of South-eastern Europe look forward to taking an active part in shaping future developments, both in the region and in Europe as a whole. The Ministers expressed the view that European integration cannot be complete

without their countries' participation based on the same principles that helped to establish and develop what is today the European Union.

The Ministers stress the important role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for peace and stability in Europe and consider that the accession to NATO of the South-east European States which have applied for membership to that organization would contribute to the enhancement of its role.

E. The situation in Albania

The Ministers express their support for Albania's efforts to return to political stability and to achieve restoration of internal security and economic rehabilitation. They also support the international community's actions to this end.

The Foreign Ministers of the participating States underline the necessity of immediately reinstituting internal peace and stability in Albania through the free will of the Albanian people, with full respect for its territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1101 (1997) of 28 March 1997.

F. Implementation of the Dayton Agreement

The Ministers emphasize that the full implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina will eliminate an important factor of instability in the area. They note with satisfaction the implementation of this Agreement so far, although many steps remain to be taken.

They encourage all the parties to the Agreement to do their utmost for its full implementation, the establishment of common institutions in particular, as soon as possible.

II. DEVELOPING ECONOMIC COOPERATION

A. Inter-State cooperation

Further development of bilateral, multilateral and regional cooperation is a primary target for the South-east European countries.

B. Sectors of cooperation

The Ministers identify the following sectors of cooperation:

1. Promotion of trade and investment

Trade and investment promotion among South-east European countries is an essential instrument to transform the region into an attractive and competitive area of economic activity. To this end, there should be encouraged:

- The promotion of the free flow of goods, capital and services, taking into consideration the bilateral and multilateral international obligations and commitments of each country;

- The establishment of links among official agencies, banks, chambers of commerce and businessmen. In this respect, the importance of the role which could be played by the Association of the Balkan Chambers of Commerce is underlined;

- The removal of existing obstacles regarding investment and business activity in each country, further liberalization of trade policies and their harmonization with World Trade Organization (WTO) standards and practice;

- The harmonization of legislation in line with European Union standards, with the support, as appropriate, of existing European Union programmes;

- The elaboration of measures facilitating commercial exchanges, including measures which will create the necessary conditions for the establishment and the efficient functioning of free-trade areas, taking into account the obligations and agreements resulting from the European Union, WTO and other international organizations.

In view of the above:

- The practice of regular meetings, preferably at least once a year, of the Ministers of Trade could be introduced in the course of this year, in order to work out relevant measures for the promotion of trade and encouragement of foreign investments;

- The Ministers agree to establish a regional centre for trade promotion in Turkey;

- They support the idea of the enlargement of the Balkan Centre for Cooperation among Small and Medium-size Enterprises in Bucharest to include all the countries of the region as a way of promoting economic cooperation in South-eastern Europe.

The Ministers welcóme the initiative of Greece to offer the services and facilities of its Balkan Institute for Technology Transfer in Thessaloniki to the benefit of other participating States in cooperation with their technology parks or similar institutions. Programmes of activities in this context will be prepared in cooperation with the said institutions.

2. Cross-border cooperation

The Ministers, in view of future concerted action on cross-border cooperation, agree to hold a meeting at Athens, preferably in the course of this year, of the aid coordinators and other representatives involved, especially with a view to further implementing the relevant European Union programmes at a more rapid pace, taking into consideration the efforts undertaken in other regional initiatives. They also agree to hold meetings, on a regular basis, of experts from the countries of the region to discuss all relevant matters in coordination with efforts undertaken within the framework of other regional initiatives.

3. Transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructure

The Ministers reaffirm that the rapid construction of the 10 pan-European Crete corridors, taking into consideration the results of the meeting of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (Berlin, 21 and 22 April 1997), is an essential factor for the development of the whole region, the strengthening of economic cooperation among the States of the region and the opening of new, large perspectives for their economies.

They underline the proposals formulated during the Conference of the Ministers of Transport of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and Central European Initiative countries (Sofia, 21 and 22 November 1996) regarding branches and extensions to these corridors. In this respect they emphasize the importance of the Third Pan-European Transport Conference (Helsinki, 23-25 June 1997), which will give further impetus to the rapid development of these corridors and all their branches and extensions, so that all South-east European countries can be included in the European transport network.

The Ministers note that the establishment of a trans-regional centre for transport infrastructure in Sofia, within the framework of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Central European Initiative, will contribute to the promotion of the interests of all States in the region. At the same time they stress the importance of the widest possible participation in the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Ministers support the idea of holding regular meetings of experts as well as meetings at the ministerial level, when appropriate, to promote the transport infrastructure of the region in close coordination with the pan-European Crete corridors. In this context they welcome the proposal of Romania to host a ministerial meeting in the near future at Bucharest.

The introduction of economic criteria, modernization and cost-effective policies, aiming at the development of air-traffic infrastructure, air services included, will be accelerated. In this respect, the idea of setting up a Balkan agency for air-traffic safety should be further explored, in consultation with authorities of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

They also note the importance of harmonizing their transport legislation with the European Union legislation in that field.

They underline the importance of enhancing cooperation in the field of telecommunications. They welcome initiatives already undertaken in this respect, and in particular the progress made so far to establish a Balkan telecommunications pool that would promote a cost-saving environment for the benefit of all participating Balkan States.

The Ministers agree to establish at Athens a joint expert body, within the framework of the Balkan telecommunications pool, to explore concrete ways and means to promote cooperation in the field of telecommunications and to attract foreign investment.

They take note of the invitation of the Republic of Turkey to host the next meeting of their ministers responsible for Posts and Telecommunications on 14 and 15 October 1997.

They also agree that both bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of energy should be intensified. In this respect, they note the initiatives already undertaken by Balkan partners in the sectors of natural gas, electrical network links, new and renewable sources of energy and oil pipelines.

The Ministers support the idea of enlargement of the Black Sea Region Energy Centre at Sofia to include all the countries of the region as a way of promoting cooperation in the field of energy among the countries of South-eastern Europe.

The Ministers take note of the proposal to organize a meeting of energy industry experts with the aim of examining the exploration of energy potentials from countries of the region.

The Ministers recognize that, in view of the existence of various initiatives for region-wide cooperation in the economic field, such as the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Central European Initiative and the South-east European Cooperative Initiative, closer coordination and better processing of information is necessary in order to avoid duplication and to derive maximum benefit for all the countries of the region. In the cases where all the participating States are not members or participants in a cooperative initiative, practical ways and means should be developed to facilitate their participation in the existing schemes.

III. JOINT ACTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Ministers express their support for common endeavours such as the creation of an information system for the monitoring and control of the transboundary impact of pollution and the effects of industrial and hazardous wastes upon the environment.

They underline the importance of the participation of all South-east European countries in the international conventions on environmental protection.

The proposal for the establishment of a centre for environmental protection for the Balkan countries shall serve regional cooperation in this field. The

centre should cooperate with relevant national and international organizations. The Ministers take note of the interest of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to host it.

They agree to examine further the proposal for establishing a regional centre in Romania to deal with coordinated international actions for the environmental protection of the Danube-Danube delta and the Black Sea region.

IV. PROMOTION OF HUMANITARIAN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION

The Ministers stress that:

- The protection of human rights is a fundamental obligation and dedication of the participating States;

- Social progress and development of civic society is their permanent target;

- The promotion of free circulation and contacts among peoples is an essential element for the establishment of a climate of confidence in the region;

- The promotion of free communication and the free flow of information is essential for the establishment of a climate of trust in the region. Further development of independent media would largely contribute to this effect;

- The participating States support the idea of holding a meeting of competent services of their international countries to discuss problems connected with present visa facilities among them, taking into account their international obligations;

- The development of scientific, educational, cultural and sports relations among the countries of the region is vital for strengthening mutual understanding and friendship among the peoples of the region;

- Proposals aiming at promoting wider contacts among peoples in the region in fields such as science, culture, arts, sports and tourism are supported, and a more active involvement of non-governmental organizations to this effect is encouraged;

- The participating States take note of the proposal of the Republic of Turkey to host a meeting of the Ministers of Culture of the countries of the region;

- Respect for the cultural heritage and the exchange of information on the illicit traffic of objects of cultural value is indispensable;

- The participating States recall the statement in the Tirana Joint Communiqué and the Sofia Declaration stressing that persons belonging to national minorities have the right within the constitutional order

of their country, guaranteeing equal rights and status for all, to express freely, to preserve and to develop their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identify and to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms in full equality with other citizens.

V. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF JUSTICE, COMBATING OF ORGANIZED CRIME AND ELIMINATION OF TERRORISM AND ILLICIT DRUG AND ARMS TRAFFICKING

The Ministers stress the need for closer cooperation in the field of justice, in the combating of organized crime and in the elimination of terrorism, and illicit drug and arms trafficking.

They express their condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, regardless of their motivation, in all its forms and manifestations, and point out the need to take all necessary and effective measures in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and international standards of human rights.

The Ministers underline the importance of strengthening border controls and call for joint action against illegal and irregular migration. They agree on a semestrial review of cooperation in this field. They encourage the conclusion between States of the region of agreements concerning the readmission of persons illegally residing in each State's territory.

A common concern is expressed with regard to the proliferation of drug-related criminal activities adversely affecting the countries of the region.

The Ministers agree that representatives of the ministries of the Interior and Justice and the relevant national institutions and agencies should meet on a regular basis to examine the possibilities of elaborating ways of cooperating to prevent any illicit practices, as described above. In this context, a conference of the heads of these institutions and agencies, with the involvement of the relevant international bodies and programmes (such as the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Council of Europe's Pompidou Group) and the European Commission could be held to consider the establishment, with the assistance, inter alia, of the PHARE (Poland-Hungary Aid for the Reconstruction of the Economy) programme, of a regional programme for cooperation on combating organized crime and preventing illicit drug and arms trafficking, which would complement national efforts in this respect. This programme should also envisage the accession of all countries of the region to the relevant international conventions and their effective implementation, the exchange of information on the legislation of the countries and the changes taking place in them and creation of modalities for a quick response to requests for legal assistance.

The Ministers encourage cooperation and contacts among the police forces of their countries to prevent any illegal actions which run contrary to the internationally adopted instruments and the legitimate interests of participating States.

VI. INTERACTION WITH OTHER INITIATIVES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

A. Royaumont Initiative and the South-east European Cooperative Initiative

The Ministers underline that the other initiatives for cooperation in south-eastern Europe, i.e., the Royaumont Initiative of the European Union and the South-east European Cooperative Initiative, are complementary to the Conference of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Countries of South-eastern Europe and are mutually reinforcing. The participation of all South-east European countries in the South-east European Cooperative Initiative would be of interest to this regional cooperation effort.

Specific programmes and projects of the participating States should be presented for coordination and fulfilment in the framework of the Royaumont process and the South-east European Cooperative Initiative.

B. Coordination with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and Central European Initiative

The Ministers emphasized the importance of close coordination on matters of common interest with other regional initiatives, such as the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Central European Initiative. Several of the participating States are also participants in such regional initiatives, where projects of general interest, such as the establishment of free-trade areas, are examined.

VII. FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM OF THE PROCESS

The Ministers agree that their representatives should hold preparatory and follow-up meetings on a regular basis in order to facilitate coordination and consultations on matters of common interest. In this context, the Ministers agree on continuing the practice of regular meetings of the political directors. Ministerial meetings should also take place on a regular basis in order to streamline and enhance cooperation. They further believe that summits should be convened when circumstances call for it.

The holding of meetings of experts in different fields is essential for the enhancement of cooperation.

The States members of the European Union and the European Commission are invited to examine closely the proposals included in the present declaration with a view to identifying concrete fields and projects of common interest.

The Ministers invite the European Union to develop further its policy for South-eastern Europe in a way similar to that of other regions in Europe.

The Ministers express their belief that this conference has been an important step forward towards cooperation and stability in South-eastern Europe. Its positive results will undoubtedly contribute to strengthening

regional cooperation and exploring new paths for the development of the area. The agreements reached and the constructive spirit which prevailed at the conference attest to this end. In this context, the Ministers decided to hold the next follow-up meeting at the political directors level at Athens. It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Countries of South-eastern Europe in Turkey in 1998.

ANNEX II

Chairman's summary

The meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of countries of South-eastern Europe, held at Thessaloniki, Greece, on 9 and 10 June 1997, confirmed the will of the participating States to proceed firmly towards strengthening stability and good-neighbourly relations in the region. In this respect, they reaffirmed all 10 principles referred to in the Helsinki Final Act: sovereign equality; respect for rights inherent in sovereignty; refraining from the threat or use of force; inviolability of frontiers; territorial integrity of States; peaceful settlement of disputes; non-intervention in internal affairs; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief; equal rights and self-determination of peoples; cooperation among States; and fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law.

During the meeting, the importance of civic society in the democratization process and the European orientation of the countries of the region as an integral part of their political, economic and social development was also underlined.

Infrastructure development was spotlighted as the basic vehicle of the whole development of the region. Transport, telecommunications and energy are the main sectors.

The participating States are following with particular interest and are participating actively in the alignment of the 10 pan-European Crete corridors, taking into consideration the results of the meeting of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (Berlin, 21 and 22 April 1997). Cross-border cooperation and communication among peoples constitute basic elements of economic and social development, while the dynamic increase of trade and investment remains a first priority.

It is particularly significant that for the first time, parallel to the Ministers' meeting, the business community of countries of South-eastern Europe deliberated on ways of cooperating closely and on the targets of their future action, with great success.

The Ministers underlined their conviction that economic development should not occur at the expense of the environment, and they pledged to undertake action towards protecting the environment.

A common belief was expressed that the human dimension in our action was the paramount component, while a common determination was reinforced to combat organized crime and illicit drug and arms trafficking and to work for the elimination of terrorism.

To promote mutual understanding, reinforce a climate of trust and enhance cooperation, the Ministers agreed to submit to their Heads of State or Government a proposal to convene informal summits of Heads of State or

Government with the Foreign Ministers of countries of South-eastern Europe. The first of those summits could take place in Crete, in November 1997. Subsequently, every country holding the presidency could host the summit, at the end of the year, after the meeting of Foreign Ministers.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 1 JULY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter to you from H.E. the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov, and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition, Mr. Abdullo Nuri (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rashid ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 27 June 1997 from the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and from the Leader of the United Tajik Opposition addressed to the Secretary-General

Today's signing of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan concludes successfully the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation. Three years of difficult political dialogue conducted under United Nations auspices have resulted in agreement on a package of documents that represents a good basis for a comprehensive and just solution to the civil conflict that has become one of the darkest pages in the history of the ancient Tajik people. Now we have the real conditions for this sad page to be turned forever.

An invaluable contribution in achieving this long-awaited success has been made by you, and the organization headed by you, whose impartial and comprehensive help have played a decisive role at all stages of the negotiating process and will never be forgotten by the grateful people of Tajikistan. We express our sincere gratitude to your Special Representative, Mr. Gerd Merrem, whose diplomatic skills, tact and patience made a breakthrough possible at the inter-Tajik negotiations and brought them to a successful conclusion. We also express our deep appreciation to his predecessors, Ambassadors Ismat Kittani and Ramiro Píriz-Ballón, who were laying the foundations of today's success in the difficult circumstances of the continuous armed confrontation. We express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Vladimir Goryayev, Political Affairs Officer at the United Nations Secretariat, whose professionalism contributed to the successful outcome of the inter-Tajik talks.

Welcoming today the completion of the negotiating process, we are fully aware that now we are facing an even more crucial stage of implementation of the agreements reached. The fact that the ceasefire has been in effect for more than six months testifies to the seriousness of the intentions of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the United Tajik Opposition to implement fully all the commitments made. At the same time, this new stage will again require the assistance and support of the United Nations. In this connection, we request you and, through you, the Security Council to assist in implementing the specific protocols to the General Agreement. We also request you to help organize an international donors' conference to facilitate the mobilization of the assistance from the international community required for implementing the General Agreement and providing the urgent humanitarian aid needed during the transitional period and the peace-building process.

As we enter this crucial new stage of putting into practice the provisions of the General Agreement, we reaffirm our commitment to the early achievement of peace and national accord in our country.

(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV
President of the Republic
of Tajikistan

(Signed) A. NURI
Leader of the United
Tajik Opposition

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NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

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A/51/937
S/1997/509
2 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 58
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 30 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 27 June 1997.

On that day, from 0740 to 1315 hours, 15 Turkish military planes violated the Nicosia flight information region and five of them violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, directly flying over the area of the monastery of Ayios Andreas.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus. At the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the resolutions of the Security Council on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

Moreover, it should be pointed out that these Turkish actions, which are highly provocative, took place on the very day that the Security Council adopted resolution 1117 (1997) and at a most sensitive period, just prior to the convening of the direct talks under your auspices.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS

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S/1997/510
2 July 1997
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Item 20 (b) of the preliminary list*
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 1 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan (annex I), the Moscow Declaration by the President of Tajikistan, E. S. Rakhmonov, the leader of the United Tajik Opposition, S. A. Nuri, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, G. D. Merrem, (annex II) and the Protocol of Mutual Understanding between the President of Tajikistan, E. S. Rakhmonov, and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition, S. A. Nuri (annex III), all signed in Moscow on 27 June 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its attachments circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 20 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

* A/52/50.

97-18331 (E) 030797 030797

Annex I

General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan, signed in Moscow on 27 June 1997

For the purposes of achieving peace and national accord in Tajikistan and overcoming the consequences of the civil war, inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation have been conducted from April 1994 up until the present time under the auspices of the United Nations. In the course of eight rounds of talks between delegations of the Government of Tajikistan and the United Tajik Opposition, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, six meetings between the President of Tajikistan and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition, and also three rounds of consultations between the delegations of the Parties, which took place in Almaty, Ashgabat, Bishkek, Islamabad, Kabul, Meshkhed (Islamic Republic of Iran), Moscow, Tehran and Khusdekh (Afghanistan), protocols were agreed and signed which, together with the present document, constitute the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan (the General Agreement). It includes the following documents:

- the Protocol on the fundamental principles for establishing peace and national accord in Tajikistan of 17 August 1995 (annex I);*[1]

- the Protocol on political questions of 18 May 1997 (annex II)[2] and the related Agreement between the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Sharipovich Rakhmonov, and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition, Said Abdullo Nuri, on the results of the meeting held in Moscow on 23 December 1996 (annex III);[3] the Protocol on the main functions and powers of the Commission on National Reconciliation of 23 December 1996 (annex IV);[4] the Statute of the Commission on National Reconciliation, of 21 February 1997 (annex V);[5] the Additional Protocol to the Protocol on the main functions and powers of the Commission on National Reconciliation, of 21 February 1997 (annex VI);[6]

- the Protocol on military issues (annex VII);[7]

- the Protocol on refugees of 13 January 1997 (annex VIII);[8]

- the Protocol on the guarantees of implementation of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan, of 28 May 1997 (annex IX).[9]

The President of Tajikistan and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition have agreed that the signing of the present General Agreement marks the beginning of the phase of full and interconnected implementation of the agreements reached, which will put an end once and for all to the fratricidal conflict in Tajikistan, ensure mutual forgiveness and amnesty, return the

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* These annexes, containing earlier agreements, have not been included here (see the relevant Security Council documents).

refugees to their homes, and create the conditions for the democratic development of society, the holding of free elections and the restoration of the country's economy destroyed by the many years of conflict. The highest national priorities of the country are peace and the national unity of all nationals of Tajikistan, regardless of their ethnic origin, political orientation, religion or regional affiliation.

The President of Tajikistan and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition have agreed to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide assistance and cooperation in the comprehensive implementation of the General Agreement. They have also agreed to request the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Governments of the guarantor States to provide cooperation in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the General Agreement.

The President of Tajikistan and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition have agreed to register the General Agreement with the United Nations Secretariat in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV
President of Tajikistan

(Signed) A. NURI
Leader of the United
Tajik Opposition

(Signed) G. MERREM
Special Representative of the
Secretary-General of the
United Nations

Notes

[1] S/1995/720, annex.

[2] S/1997/385, annex I.

[3] S/1996/1070, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] S/1997/169, annex I.

[6] Ibid, annex II.

[7] S/1997/209, annex II.

[8] S/1997/56, annex III.

[9] S/1997/410, annex.

Annex II

The Moscow Declaration, signed in Moscow on 27 June 1997

We, the President of Tajikistan, E. S. Rakhmonov, the leader of the United Tajik Opposition, S. A. Nuri, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, G. D. Merrem, have signed today in Moscow the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan. Thus, after five years of civil confrontation which became one of the most tragic pages in the centuries-long history of our country, the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation have been successfully concluded and the long-awaited day of the triumph of reason and hope for a peaceful future has dawned.

The President of Tajikistan and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition express their sincere gratitude to the United Nations, under the auspices and with the mediation of which the negotiating process has been proceeding for the past three years. They express their conviction that the United Nations will provide Tajikistan with assistance and cooperation in the implementation of the agreements reached.

We are grateful to the observer countries at the inter-Tajik talks - Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - for their cooperation in moving the talks forward and their all-round assistance during the years of our people's ordeal. Agreement at the international level to guarantee the implementation of the Agreement strengthens our conviction that all the obligations it contains will be implemented in full within the agreed periods.

We greatly value the role of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the inter-Tajik negotiating process, and express the hope that they too will provide cooperation in the implementation of the agreements reached.

We thank the Government of the Russian Federation and President B. N. Yeltsin personally for their great contribution to the Tajik settlement and their cooperation in the successful conduct of the present meeting in Moscow.

As we enter on the new responsible phase of giving effect to the provisions of the General Agreement, we proclaim once again our desire for the speediest possible attainment of peace and national harmony in Tajikistan.

(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV
President of Tajikistan

(Signed) A. NURI
Leader of the United
Tajik Opposition

(Signed) G. MERREM
Special Representative of the
Secretary-General of the
United Nations

Annex III

Protocol of Mutual Understanding between the President of Tajikistan, E. S. Rakhmonov and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition, S. A. Nuri, signed in Moscow on 27 June 1997

The President of Tajikistan, E. S. Rakhmonov, and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition, S. A. Nuri, held a separate meeting in Moscow on 27 June 1997, to discuss issues associated with the strengthening of confidence-building measures between the Parties in the interests of advancing the process of national reconciliation in Tajikistan.

As a result of the meeting, the following agreements were reached:

(1) To convene in Moscow by 7 July 1997 the first meeting of the Commission on National Reconciliation to discuss and transmit for consideration by the Parliament of Tajikistan the draft of the General Amnesty Act;

(2) In implementation of the provisions of the Bishkek Memorandum of 18 May 1997 (S/1997/385, annex II) regarding solution of the problems of exchanging prisoners of war and imprisoned persons as an act of goodwill, to exchange by 15 July 1997 50 prisoners of war and 50 imprisoned persons, including all those detained since February 1997;

(3) Firmly condemning terrorism and confirming that their positions regarding joint action to combat it remain unchanged, the Parties have agreed that they will not use the existing known facts and suspicions to discredit one another politically.

(Signed) E. S. RAKHMONOV
The President of Tajikistan

(Signed) S. A. NURI
The leader of the United Tajik Opposition

In the presence of:

(Signed) G. D. MERREM
The Special Representative of the Secretary-General
of the United Nations for Tajikistan

(Signed) E. M. PRIMAKOV
The Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation

(Signed) A. A. VELAYATI
The Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

UNITED
NATIONS

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S/1997/511
2 July 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 1 JULY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to have the communiqué on the situation in the Republic of the Congo issued by the Government of Mali on 27 June 1997 circulated as a document of the Security Council (see annex).

(Signed) Moctar OUANE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-18337 (E) 020797 020797

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Annex

Communiqué issued by the Government of Mali on 27 June 1997

The Government of Mali is following developments in the Republic of the Congo with great concern.

In keeping with its pan-African commitment, it supports the decisions that have resulted from the joint efforts of the International Mediation Committee, headed by President El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon, and the summit meeting of heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States held recently in Lomé.

To the extent possible and strictly within the terms of reference laid down by the Organization of African States and the United Nations for the rapid deployment of an inter-African force in Brazzaville, the Government of Mali is willing to participate fully in the concerted African effort to restore peace in the Republic of the Congo and to ensure that the democratic peace process in that country is given every chance.

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

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2 July 1997
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LETTER DATED 2 JULY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TOGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

By a letter of 26 June 1997 (see annex) I transmitted to you a letter dated 26 June 1997 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Koffi Panou, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Togolese Republic, subsequent to the Conference of Chiefs of State and Heads of Government of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) held at Lomé on 23 June 1997 (see appendix).

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request the issuance of this letter and of the above communication from Mr. Panou as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roland Y. KPOTSRA

97-18356 (E) 030797 030797

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Annex

Letter dated 26 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit annexed hereto a letter dated 26 June 1997 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Koffi Panou, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Togolese Republic, subsequent to the Conference of Chiefs of State and Heads of Government of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) held at Lomé on 23 June 1997.

(Signed) Roland Y. KPOTSRA

Appendix

I have the honour to transmit annexed hereto the text of the declaration by the Conference of Chiefs of State and Heads of Government of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) on security and peace in Africa.

The declaration was adopted at the conclusion of the work of the Conference held at Lomé on 23 June 1997.

By this declaration the Chiefs of State and Heads of Government of WAEMU reaffirmed the interdependence of the economic and monetary policies of the member States and regional security, and stated their resolve to contribute to the establishment of conditions for a lasting peace that will foster progress.

Similarly, they stated their willingness to participate in the deployment in the Republic of the Congo of a force under the authority of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

(Signed) Koffi PANOU

Attachment

Declaration by the Conference of Chiefs of State and Heads of Government of the West African Economic and Monetary Union on Security and Peace in Africa

The Conference of Chiefs of State and Heads of Government of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, meeting at Lomé, on 23 June 1997,

Faithful to the purposes of the Treaty establishing the Union, as well as to those of the Economic Community of West African States and the Organization of African Unity,

Desiring to promote the integration of the West African Economic and Monetary Union so as to consolidate the monetary integration of the member States,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the complementarity of the productive bases of the member States and to reduce disparities in their levels of development,

Bearing in mind the interdependence between the economic and monetary policies of the member States and regional security,

Considering the need to assure in the subregion, and in rest of the continent, conditions for a just and lasting peace and security that will guarantee the progress and development of the States,

Considering the disquieting situation prevailing in certain States of the subregion and the continent,

1. Notes with satisfaction, with regard to the crisis in Liberia, the encouraging progress made in implementation of the Abuja Agreement aimed at restoring peace in that country;

2. Welcomes the decision taken at the last Summit Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Committee of Nine to postpone the presidential and legislative assembly elections, initially scheduled for 30 May, to 19 July 1997, to permit them to be held in peace, security, transparency and fairness;

3. Urgently appeals to the international community to provide the assistance promised so that the elections may take place under the best possible conditions on the scheduled date;

4. Deplores, in contrast, the situation obtaining in Sierra Leone since 25 May 1997, following the coup d'état which overthrew President Ahmad Tejan Kabah, democratically elected in March 1996;

5. Strongly condemns the coup d'état;

6. Urgently calls for the restoration of constitutional order;

7. Emphasizes the imperative need for the parties concerned to make use, as quickly as possible, of the follow-up machinery under the Peace Agreement signed at Abidjan on 30 November 1996 to bring together all the parties involved in the present situation so as to initiate a dialogue permitting attainment of the objectives of the Agreement, namely the search for a just and equitable solution to the conflict in Sierra Leone and the advent of lasting peace in that country;

8. Expresses, with regard to the Congo, its great concern at the fratricidal confrontations taking place in Brazzaville which have left many victims;

9. Urges the parties involved to continue to observe the current ceasefire and to give priority in their relations to dialogue and consultation so as to settle the Congolese crisis;

10. Welcomes the action by the International Mediation Committee on the Congolese crisis;

11. Also welcomes the humanitarian action by France, which has allowed many lives to be saved;

12. Expresses its support for the initiatives in hand with a view to deploying a multinational peace force in the Congo;

13. Affirms its willingness to take part in this force under the authority of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity;

14. Deplores in addition the resumption of combat in the Central African Republic and in particular the attack on the Interafrican Mission to monitor the Bangui Agreement.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

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3 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 JULY 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey to you the attached letter, dated 2 July 1997, which I have received from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations. Attached to the letter is the eighth fortnightly report on the multinational protection force for Albania, as requested by the Security Council in resolutions 1101 (1997) of 28 March 1997 and 1114 (1997) of 19 June 1997.

I should appreciate your bringing the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-18510 (E) 030797

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Annex

Letter dated 2 July 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit the eighth report on the multinational protection force for Albania. This report is submitted pursuant to the requirement set out in paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 1114 (1997) of 19 June 1997, in which the Council requested the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide periodic reports, at least every two weeks, through the Secretary-General, to the Council. The seventh such report was conveyed to you on 27 June 1997 (see S/1997/501).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and the eighth report circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Giulio TERZI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Appendix

Eighth report to the Security Council on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 28 March 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1101 (1997), in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed the offer made by certain Member States to establish a temporary and limited multinational protection force to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance.

2. On 19 June 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1114 (1997), in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed the readiness of the countries contributing to the multinational protection force to maintain their military contingents in Albania for a limited time. In paragraph 3 of the resolution the Security Council welcomed the intention of the countries contributing to the multinational protection force to continue to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance. It also took note of all the elements contained in the sixth report on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania, concerning, inter alia, the electoral monitoring mission of the Office for Democratic Institutional and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It decided that the operation would be limited to a period of 45 days from 28 June 1997.

3. In both resolutions the Security Council requested the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide periodic reports to the Council through the Secretary-General, at least every two weeks. The first seven reports on the operation of the multinational protection force were provided on 9 and 25 April, 9 and 23 May, and 6, 13 and 26 June 1997.

4. This is the eighth such report to the Security Council on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania and the second report submitted to the Council pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 1114 (1997). The present report refers to the role of the multinational protection force in helping to ensure a safe and secure environment for the OSCE monitoring teams during the electoral operations on 29 June 1997.

II. MULTINATIONAL PROTECTION FORCE

A. Political guidance

5. The Steering Committee, consisting of the political directors of the 11 troop-contributing countries, and the Commander of the operation, continues to follow the overall situation on the ground and the full compliance of the activities of the force with the Security Council mandate. It had meetings on

4, 9, 14, 23 and 30 April, 6, 13, 14 and 22 May, 4, 10, 20 and 25 June and 2 July 1997. On 29 June, the Steering Committee remained in permanent session in Rome from the opening of the polling stations to the conclusion of the voting operations in Albania in direct contact with the force headquarters in Tirana and in particular with the special office set up in Tirana in coordination with OSCE/ODIHR.

6. Representatives of the following international organizations attended the meetings of the Steering Committee as observers as appropriate: United Nations, OSCE, European Union, Western European Union and International Committee of the Red Cross.

B. Cooperation with Albanian authorities

7. A representative of the Government of Albania attended the Steering Committee session on 29 June and 2 July.

C. Cooperation with international organizations

8. In its meeting on 25 June 1997, the Steering Committee decided that a special office would be set up in Tirana at the force headquarters to follow the developments of the electoral operations in the country, in cooperation with the Albanian authorities and OSCE.

9. The force is helping to create a secure environment for the electoral process, in particular for the OSCE-ODIHR missions, within the framework of the Security Council mandate.

D. Force deployment

10. Before and during the electoral process, the force has extended its deployment virtually throughout the country and acquired further visibility, intensifying reconnaissance, patrolling and escort missions.

11. For the specific purpose of providing security for the OSCE monitoring teams and the parliamentary observers during the electoral process, an increase in strength of the force up to 7,215 units was considered necessary. On 29 June, the overall deployment of the force was as follows: Austria, 110; Belgium, 14; Denmark, 56; Greece, 797; Italy, 3,778; France, 938; Portugal, 1 aircraft crew; Romania, 398; Slovenia, 24; Spain, 342; and Turkey, 758.

12. During the electoral process, the force provided protection to the OSCE monitoring teams, according to the situation, either indirectly, within the enlarged security framework (in most of the country), or directly, providing escorts on a case-by-case basis (in the rest of the country). More than 3,500 kilometres of roads were patrolled in addition to the specific task of escorting the OSCE observer teams which were distributed throughout the various areas of the country as follows: 15 in Gjirokaster and Sarande, 25 in Pogradec and Korce, 15 in Vlore, 14 in Peshkopi, 12 in Shkoder, 12 in Lezhe, 5 in Berat,

11 in Lushnjë, 18 in Fier, 16 in Elbasan, 33 in Durres and Kavaje, and 62 in Tirana and Kruje.

13. The force has granted medical assistance at its military compounds, offered accommodation to 372 observers (302 in the force garrisons and 70 on board the Italian ship "San Giorgio" in Durres) and provided communications personnel in order to facilitate links between different OSCE missions and central headquarters.

14. During the electoral days, the force employed 1,800 men for escorts and 2,200 for patrols, strong points and garrison tasks, leaving 600 men on reserve.

15. The force offered transportation facilities, both by car and by helicopter, to the senior OSCE representatives and the Council of Europe official who visited Tirana, Shkodier, Berat, Korce and Gjirokaster on 29 June to hear accounts of the voting from the international observers and Albanian electoral officials.

III. CONCLUSIONS

16. Despite growing tensions on the eve of the elections, no incidents involving the OSCE monitors were reported on election day. Some violence did, however, occur, specifically the killing of a political leader in Kurian near Fier that may have been linked to the electoral process. There was also an armed attack against the Greek General Consulate in Gjirokaster, as a result of which a member of its local staff was killed.

17. The force has been committed to help create a secure environment and the best possible conditions for the holding of regular and fair elections.

18. In some cases the force had to intervene. In Dvijake, near Durres, armed gunmen stole ballot papers in a polling station but the local police, with the help of the force, succeeded in rescuing the stolen items. Equally, in Lashinje the ballot boxes were stolen in two polling stations at the end of the day and the force had to intervene to rescue them. In Vlore and in Tirana armed gangs surrounded the local polling stations at the end of the voting process and the force had to intervene to avoid incidents.

19. The relatively high turnout of voters was also attributable to the security framework provided by the force. The presence of the force also contributed to the fact that observers were for the most part granted access to all stages of the voting without interference or intimidation.

20. It is the view of the Steering Committee that the electoral operations on 29 June were generally run in a smooth way, given the local circumstances. For further observations on the electoral operations, the Steering Committee refers to the statement delivered on 2 July by Mme. Catherine Lalumiere, OSCE Special Coordinator for the Albanian Parliamentary Elections.

UNITED
NATIONS

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S/1997/514
3 July 1997

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LETTER DATED 3 JULY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued at Pyongyang on 2 July 1997 on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of the 4 July joint communiqué agreed upon between the North and South of Korea on 4 July 1972.

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) KIM Chang Guk
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

97-18552 (E) 080797 090797

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Annex

Memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, issued at Pyongyang on 2 July 1997

(On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of the 4 July joint communiqué)

The Great Exploits Performed by the Respected Leader Comrade KIM IL SUNG in the History of National Reunification Movement Will Be Immortal.

It is the twenty-fifth year since the publication of the historic 4 July joint communiqué which proclaimed the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity as a reunification programme of the north and the south.

On this occasion, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) issues this memorandum with a view to publicizing once again within and without the immortal exploits performed by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung on the road to national reunification.

Three principles of national reunification - common reunification programme of the north and south

Ushering in the 1970s, the internal and external situation had changed in favour of our people in accomplishing the cause of national reunification.

Under the wise leadership of the great leader, the people in the northern half of our Republic vigorously accelerated the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, holding high the banner of the Juche idea, and thus cemented rock-firm our revolutionary base, a decisive guarantee of national reunification.

The youth and students and patriotic people in south Korea waged a more energetic struggle for independence, democracy and reunification. The ranks of those supporting and encouraging the just cause of our people for national reunification in the international arena increased as days went by.

Faced with resistance from the peoples of the world against its policy of aggression and war and driven into a tight corner as a result of economic crisis, the United States of America promulgated the "Nixon doctrine" and changed its policy towards Korea into one of perpetuating the division of Korea while attempting to seek a way out for itself in the "peace strategy".

Taking advantage of the "two Koreas" policy of the United States, the south Korean authorities advocated so-called "peace" and "negotiations" in order to escape from the crisis resulting from the anti-fascist democratic resistance of the people and to extricate themselves from their lot of international orphan.

The prevailing situation required that decisive measures be taken once again to prevent the danger of permanent division on the Korean peninsula and solve the reunification problem in conformity with the principle of independence.

Reflecting the requirements of the situation prevailing at the time, the respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, in his speech on 6 August 1971, advanced the policy of new, wide-ranging negotiations whereby we were ready to come into contact at any time with all political parties including the ruling "Democratic Republican Party", social organizations and individual personages of south Korea.

The south Korean authorities, who had rejected any contact between the north and south, were compelled to respond to our proposal, though in the form of Red Cross talks, which resulted in the opening of preliminary talks for the North-South Red Cross Talks beginning in September 1971, to be followed separately by the High-Level Political Talks between the North and the South.

At his meeting with the south Korean delegate who had come to Pyongyang to participate in the North-South High-Level Talks on 3 May 1972, the respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung set forth the three principles of national reunification, which constituted the foundation for solving the reunification problem.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung stated as follows:

> "I believe that our reunification question should on all accounts be settled independently without foreign interference and peacefully in accordance with the principle of promoting great national unity."

The south Korean delegate expressed full support to the three principles of national reunification advanced by the great leader, saying that he would take these three principles as the greatest mainstay of reunification. Later, the then south Korean chief executive also told our delegate who had gone to Seoul to participate in the second round of the high-level talks that he approved of and fully supported the three principles advanced by the great leader. Consequently, the 4 July joint communiqué, with the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity as its main contents, was published to world attention on 4 July 1972.

The publication of the 4 July joint communiqué was a great event which proclaimed to the world the three principles of national reunification as the common reunification programme of the north and south. Upon its publication, the joint communiqué aroused enthusiastic international support, and sympathy as well for its justness and truthfulness.

The United Nations General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session, in 1973, adopted unanimously a consensus statement supporting the three principles of national reunification and at its thirtieth session, in 1975, adopted a further consensus statement on respecting the 4 July joint communiqué that could facilitate the independent and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula. Resolutions demanding the settlement of the question of Korea's reunification in

accordance with the three principles were also adopted in the summit conferences and Foreign Ministers' Conferences of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

The three principles of national reunification elucidated by the great leader constitute the main guideline to be adhered to unfailingly by the north and the south in drawing up and executing the reunification policy and the lasting common reunification programme of the nation. The principle of independence is the fundamental question related to the destiny of the country and nation and the starting point of the national reunification movement.

The struggle of our people for national reunification is, in essence, the struggle to put an end to foreign domination and to realize national independence. The division of our country itself was imposed by the foreign forces and the failure to achieve reunification even up until the present, after the end of the cold war, is also attributable to interference and obstructive manoeuvres on the part of the outside forces.

Apart from the independent position, not one problem regarding national reunification can be settled in conformity with the interests and the demands of our nation. Anyone who truly wishes for national reunification should oppose foreign interference and take a position and a stand to achieve reunification by the Korean people themselves.

The principle of peaceful reunification is the fundamental way to resolve the problem of reunification in accordance with the unanimous desires of all fellow countrymen and the peace-loving peoples of the world. Our people, who love their country and nation, whether they be in the north, the south or overseas, do not want to fight against each other.

The peaceful settlement of the question of Korea's reunification will also make a great contribution to achieving peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

All the reunification proposals set forth by the DPRK Government so far have been oriented consistently towards achieving the reunification of the country by peaceful means through dialogue and negotiation, not by means of confrontation and war. The principle of great national unity is a guide to action which rallies the entire nation into one under the banner of national reunification.

National reunification is the patriotic task of the whole nation. Apart from the great unity of our nation, we cannot conceive either of the country's reunification or of the common national task. The harmonization and single unity of the whole nation are the immediate goal of national reunification to which we aspire. The entire Korean nation should realize the great unity transcending the differences in ideas, ideals and systems in order to achieve the cause of national reunification.

The great leader advanced the three principles of national reunification of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity and made it the common reunification programme of the nation. This is his immortal

accomplishment which will remain forever in the history of the reunification movement.

Brilliant embodiment of the three principles of national reunification

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung advanced the three principles of national reunification and took practical measures for their realization:

1. Proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo (DCRK)

The separatist forces within and without at last brought about a rupture in the north-south dialogue which had been arranged with all sincerity in the mid-1970s and again instigated north-south confrontation. And they further intensified their plot to perpetuate Korea's division at the beginning of the 1980s.

The South Korean authorities came out openly with the "theory of the impossibility of reunification" while talking about "reunification in the 2000".

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, in his report to the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in October 198., advanced the proposal for reunification through the confederation formula which embodied the three principles of national reunification in an all-round way, in order to surmount the obstacles in the way of reunification and open up a new road.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung stated as follows:

> "Our Party considers that the most realistic and reasonable way to reunify the country independently, peacefully and in accordance with the principle of great national unity is to bring the north and the south together into a confederal State, leaving the ideas and social systems existing in north and south as they are."

The proposal for reunification through confederacy advanced by the great leader is the proposal for founding a unified State in our style based on the principle of one nation and one State, two systems and two Governments.

The DCRK is a unified State of a confederal form in which a unified national Government is established on condition that the north and the south recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and systems, a Government in which the two sides are represented on an equal footing and under which they exercise regional autonomy respectively with equal power of authority and duties.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung elucidated in an all-round way the questions on the founding of the DCRK, including the problem of forming a supreme national confederal assembly with an equal number of representatives from the north and the south and an appropriate number of representatives of overseas nationals under which a confederal standing committee is organized to

discuss and decide on common issues related to the overall interests of the country and nation. He also put forward the 10-point policy to be effected by the DCRK.

The respected leader clarified in the 10-point policy that the DCRK would be an independent, democratic, neutral, non-aligned and peace-loving country, illuminating the policies to be carried out by the confederal State in all fields of politics, the economy, culture, the military, people's livelihood and foreign relations.

Afterwards, the great leader propounded in succession the flexible proposals for expediting the process of reunification through confederacy, including the problem of organizing the supreme national confederal assembly and its confederal standing committee and selecting the co-chairman and the co-president from the north and the south respectively to run the confederal Government in rotation and the matter of the gradual completion of the confederal reunification by way of vesting the regional autonomous governments with more authority on a provisional basis and upgrading the functions of the central Government in the future with a view to further facilitating a nationwide agreement on the proposed confederal reunification.

The proposed confederal reunification is another programme of reunification that enables us to achieve the cause of national reunification through the unity of the nation, excluding foreign interference and without conquering the other or being conquered by the other.

It is a universal form of politics in international society for people with different ideas and principles to enter into an alliance to form and operate a coalition Government and where, in particular, reunification based on one State and two systems turns into the order of the day.

From March 1981 to March 1982, 1.6 billion people from all walks of life, including dignitaries from political and social circles in many countries of the world, joined the international signature campaign in support of the proposal for founding the DCRK. This testifies to the fact that this proposal elicited great support and sympathy.

For its fairness, justness and contemporaneity, the proposal for confederal reunification set forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung will surely be implemented.

2. Ten-point programme of great unity of the whole nation

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung took the practical measures to bring about the great national unity with a view to embodying the three principles of national reunification.

The respected leader, in his five-point policy of national reunification enunciated in June 1973, advanced a proposal for the convocation of a Great National Conference comprising people of all walks of life and the

representatives of all the political parties and social organizations in the north and the south.

It was followed by the dispatch of a letter to the various political parties in south Korea with a suggestion to convene the Great National Conference in the joint name of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean Democratic Party and the Chondoist-Chongu Party in November of the same year.

In January 1979, the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for National Reunification issued a statement containing its four-point proposal on advancing national reunification by the great unity of the whole nation and, in order to implement this proposal, initiated the establishment of the preparatory committee for national reunification as a preliminary consultation apparatus, replacing the former coordination commission.

The south Korean authorities, however, responded to our fair and just proposal for consultation by cracking down on the reunification forces in south Korea.

The great leader took the active measures to promote the great national unity, particularly in the 1980s, when the proposal for founding the DCRK was put forward.

Upon the initiative of the respected leader, a proposal was made in August 1981 to hold a Conference for the Promotion of National Reunification, with the participation of the representatives of the political parties and organizations from the north, the south and the overseas compatriots and to convene a joint conference in February 1982 to be attended by 100 persons, including politicians from the north, the south and overseas.

The respected leader took practical steps to achieve national reconciliation and unity. The Government of our Republic sent a large quantity of its relief materials to the flood-stricken people in south Korea when they suffered from the severe disaster of the heavy floods in September 1984. The north and south exchanged visits of the Red Cross art troupes and home-visiting groups in 1985, marking the fortieth anniversary of the country's liberation. And under our own initiative, the Pan-National Conference was convened on 15 August 1990. Following that conference, the Pan-National Music Concert for Reunification was held and the Reunification Football Games and Art Performances took place at Pyongyang and Seoul.

In April and June 1991, the north and south formed their single team and played in the forty-first World Table Tennis Championship and the sixth World Youth Football Championship.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, based on the invaluable experiences and successes achieved in the efforts to attain national unity during the earlier period, personally authored and proclaimed the "Ten-Point Programme of Great Unity of the Whole Nation for Reunification of the Country" at the fifth session of the ninth Supreme People's Assembly on 6 April 1993.

The Ten-Point Programme of Great Unity of the Whole Nation sets as its overriding objective the establishment of a pan-national reunified State, which is independent, peaceful and neutral. It stipulates patriotism and the spirit of national independence as its ideal basis for unity and as its underlying principle of unity to promote coexistence, co-prosperity and common interests and subordinates everything to the cause of reunification.

Moreover, the Ten-Point Programme sets forth detailed ways to achieve the great national unity. They include ending all political disputes, dispelling the fear of invasion from both south and north as well as the ideas of prevailing over communism and communization, believing in and uniting each other, recognizing and protecting State ownership, cooperative ownership and private ownership both before reunification and after it, granting special favours to those who have made significant accomplishments for the sake of great national unity and the reunification of the country and to the patriotic martyrs and their descendants, dealing leniently with those who had turned their back on the nation in the past but returned to the patriotic path, repentant of their past and assessing fairly those according to the contributions they have made to the cause of national reunification.

In the year 1994 alone, more than 1.73 billion people from the five continents of the world signed their names in support of the Ten-Point Programme of Great Unity of the Whole Nation, and this affords an illustration of the great sympathy which this programme has enjoyed from world public opinion.

Indeed, the Ten-Point Programme of Great Unity of the Whole Nation put forward by the great leader is a great common charter of the nation which truly reflects the will and desire of our whole nation to attain national reconciliation and reunification.

3. Struggle to bring about a peaceful environment for reunification

The establishment of the preconditions for peaceful reunification embodying the three principles of national reunification is essential for the country's reunification. The Korean peninsula has been in an unstable state of armistice for more than four decades and huge armed forces stand face to face in between the military demarcation line.

Regarding peace arrangements on the Korean peninsula as the first consideration for national reunification, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung advanced numerous proposals for easing up tensions and made substantial measures therefor. The existence of the armistice system, which means neither a peace mechanism nor a state of war, is responsible for the continued unstable situation in our country.

At the third session of the fifth Supreme People's Assembly, held on 25 March 1974, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung made a proposal to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement through talks between the DPRK and the United States, the real parties to the Korean Armistice Agreement. This

proposal has caused great repercussions and elicited a sensitive response in the international arena.

The United Nations General Assembly, at its thirtieth session, in 1975, adopted a resolution on the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement, dismantlement of the "UN Command" and withdrawal of the foreign troops from south Korea. The adoption of this resolution was a manifestation of the firm support of the international community towards the DPRK's proposal. However, the United States and the south Korean authorities, in disregard of the resolution, followed the path of aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula while conducting their aggressive "Team Spirit" joint military exercises every year since 1976.

As the 1980s began, the United States and the south Korean authorities further intensified their war preparations. After gaining a deep insight into the prevailing situation, the great leader made an epoch-making proposal in January 1984 to conclude a peace agreement replacing the Armistice Agreement between the DPRK and the United States and to adopt a Declaration of Non-aggression between the north and the south by holding tripartite talks - in which south Korea would also participate in the DPRK-United States talks.

Even under the situation where the United States and the south Korean authorities defiantly opposed the DPRK's proposal for tripartite talks, the great leader took the positive step of mobilizing 150,000 Korean People's armymen for peaceful construction in 1986 to defuse the tension on the Korean peninsula and advanced a proposal on 23 July 1987 for a massive phased reduction of the armed forces and declared a unilateral reduction of 100,000 of the People's Army forces as a subsequent practical measure.

However, the United States, in a bid to slough off its responsibility as the real party to the Korean Armistice Agreement, appointed a south Korean army man, who was not a party to the Agreement, as the "senior member" of the "UN forces" to the Korean Armistice Commission in March 1991, thereby rendering the armistice mechanism completely defunct.

The continued absence and vacuum of such a military braking mechanism, which had been responsible for implementation of the Armistice Agreement could no longer be allowed to continue under the circumstances, which witnessed the ever-growing confrontations and tensions on the Korean peninsula.

In accordance with the policy advanced by the great leader, the Government of our Republic put forward a proposal on 28 April 1994 to convert the obsolete armistice system into a new peace arrangement to cope with the prevailing situation and, to this end, made a detailed proposal in February 1996 to replace the present Armistice Agreement with an interim agreement and suggested that the United States side convene the DPRK-United States Military general-level talks.

If these talks are held, they will lead to the establishment of a new peace arrangement to replace the armistice system, the product of the cold war on the Korean peninsula, and provide a new decisive phase for maintaining an order of peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

4. The struggle for the embodiment of the three principles of the national reunification through north-south dialogue

The north-south dialogue will substantiate the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity for national reunification.

After the enunciation of the three principles of national reunification, the great leader led the efforts to bring about various dialogues and negotiations, including high-level talks, the Red Cross talks, parliamentary talks and economic talks between the north and the south, in order to embody the three principles.

At the beginning of the 1990s, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung took the landmark initiative of demolishing the concrete walls built up on the south side of the military demarcation line, allowing free travel between the north and the south, and holding north-south high-level talks and the north-south summit talks to remove the root cause of the war and accelerate the process of peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula in the next few years.

Under this initiative, six rounds of the north-south high-level talks were held at the level of Prime Ministers from September 1990 to February 1992, leading to the adoption and implementation of the Agreement on Reconciliation, Cooperation and Exchange between the North and the South and the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization on the Korean peninsula.

The Agreement signed between the north and the south marks a historic event which provided a new milestone in the way of embodying the three principles of national reunification and serves as a common guideline of action between the north and the south aimed at speeding up the process of national reunification in conformity with today's trend towards independence and peace.

Regarding it as his lifetime mission to achieve the cause of national reunification, the great leader made a resolute decision in mid-June 1994 to hold the North-South Summit Talks, an event which had never been recorded in the early history of the national reunification movement, and proposed his initiative to the south side.

That initiative was followed by the preliminary contacts between the north and the south at the Vice-Prime Ministerial level for the summit talks on 28 June 1994. At the contacts, complete agreement was reached on holding the first-ever North-South Summit Talks at Pyongyang from 25 to 27 July 1994.

The great leader devoted his unremitting painstaking efforts to laying out a rapid route to fulfilling the cause of national reunification and to embrace the 70 million fellow countrymen with a firm faith for the reunification through the Pyongyang Summit Talks. But the great leader suddenly passed away, to our regret, at 2 a.m. on 8 July, with the historic autograph of his august name left in the momentous document relating to the problem of national reunification on 7 July 1994.

On this very eve of the third anniversary of the demise of the great leader, the entire Korean people are overwhelmed with their feelings of boundless reverence and thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung who devoted all possible efforts in his lifetime to bring about the reunification of our nation.

The Government of our Republic will, as in the past, and in the future as well, remain unswerving in safeguarding, defending and carrying through the lines and policies clarified by the great father of the nation Comrade Kim Il Sung in its efforts to achieve the cause of the reunification of the country.

The great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il, during his inspection tour to Panmunjom, symbol of division and confrontation on 24 November of last year, stipulated the three principles of national reunification, the proposed Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo and the Ten-Point Programme of Great Unity of the Whole Nation as the three mainstays - three charters - of national reunification.

This is the summation of the country's reunification policies as set forth by the great leader for nearly half a century.

This indicates the unwavering faith and firm will of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Il who intends to enable our people to live happily in the reunified fatherland with boundless national dignity and honour by certainly realizing the cause of national reunification in our generation, true to the behests of the great leader.

Our fatherland which was divided by outside forces will be reunified without fail according to the intention and will of the great leader and respected General Kim Jong Il.

The reunified motherland will be prosperous forever together with the immortal contributions made by the great leader in the history of the reunification movement.